

Subjects and Predicates

Sentences consist of two basic parts: subjects and predicates.

1b. The **subject** tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

EXAMPLE In English class **the highlight of the day** was the discussion of Davy Crockett.

1d. The **predicate** of a sentence tells something about the subject.

EXAMPLE The class **read several tall tales about this adventurous frontiersman.**

EXERCISE A Decide whether the underlined word or word group is the subject or the predicate. Write *S* if the word or word group is the subject or *P* if it is the predicate.

Examples P 1. Across America, Davy Crockett is a popular legendary hero.

 S 2. This native of Tennessee died at the battle of the Alamo.

_____ 1. Whether young or old, many people enjoy legends about Davy Crockett.

_____ 2. In one story, a wild stallion carries Davy on his back for three days.

_____ 3. Did you ever hear the story about Davy's conversation with a raccoon?

_____ 4. Most of the remarkable stories about Crockett are obviously not true.

_____ 5. Still, the legendary Davy Crockett continues to capture our imaginations.

EXERCISE B In each sentence below, draw one line under the complete subject and two lines under the complete predicate.

Example 1. When did the first explorer reach the South Pole?

6. Roald Amundsen led the first successful expedition to the South Pole in 1911.

7. The well-seasoned Amundsen was nearly forty years old at the time.

8. Much earlier in life, Amundsen had planned for a career in medicine.

9. By age twenty-five, the adventurous young man had changed his goal to a life at sea.

10. Who first reached the North Pole?

11. United States explorer Robert E. Peary claimed to be the first.

12. Another U.S. explorer, Frederick Cook, made the same claim.

13. Peary's claim was accepted by Congress.

14. The American admiral Richard Byrd made the first flight over the South Pole in 1929.

15. Byrd had made the first flight over the North Pole in 1926 with Floyd Bennett.